

Dear FCC:

Telephone companies were broken up since monopolies were found to impede fairness and were potentially anti-trust risks - why is the same not true for the more recent consolidation of media? It is ridiculous to allow a few large corporations to control the public airways. This is a very subtle and powerful attack on the First Amendment right of Free Speech that protects the citizens from abuse.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.